roster and restore the pre-1996 roster. This should also be brought under the purview of the statute mentioned above."

Complaints against the functioning of Delimitation Commission

4594. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received from different quarters against the functioning of Delimitation Commission;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to convene a meeting of all the parties; and

(c) if so, by when this meeting is likely to be held and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Member of Parliament had also raised this issue in the Lok Sabha after which an all-party meeting was convened on 13-3-2003 wherein representatives of various political parties conveyed their dissatisfaction with the procedure adopted by the Delimitation Commission for association of the Associate Members. The Government accordingly took up the matter with the Delimitation Commission, which has since changed the procedure regarding consultation with the Associate Members.

(c) As mentioned above, the Government has already held the meeting with the political parties and necessary action has been taken in the matter in pursuance thereof.

Freight rate for ships bound for America

4595. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the freight rate for ships bound for America has been raised by 40 per cent from May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have analyzed its impact on imports and exports of country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to remove adverse impact on exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir. However, general increase in freight rate to the tune of US$ 525 per 20' container, US$ 700 per 40 container and US$ 790 per 40' high cube container has been announced with effect from 1st May, 2003. The freight increase is being taken on the existing freight level, which may vary from commodity to commodity and from shipping line to shipping line.

(b) Freight rates are determined by an interplay of market forces.

(c) to (e) The imports and exports of the country depend upon a number of factors including freight rates. It is too early to project the impact on our exports to America due to increased freight rates as the rates have just been revised.

Cargo movement in ports

4596. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent war between US and Iraq has affected the cargo movement in various ports including Kandla port;

(b) if so, whether in the Kandla port, cargo including rice, granite blocks and agricultural commodities chartered to Jeddah, Iran and Yemen have been affected;

(c) if so, the total loss suffered due to these operations in ports;

(d) the steps being taken to implement the commitments made before war; and

(e) how much has been spoiled due to delay in operations in these ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) The recent war in Iraq has had no perceptible impact on the movement of cargo in various ports including Kandla.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Revision of guidelines for private sector investment in major ports

4597. DR. M.N. DAS :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI R.P. GOENKA :